

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A remote control method ~~effor remote-remotely~~ controlling a robot controller through a universal communication network ~~by using a general-purpose~~ terminal disposed ~~remotely~~ from the robot controller, the method comprising:

enabling the general-purpose terminal to ~~remote-remotely~~ control the robot controller ~~by using a functional connecting device which is disposed~~ located on a ~~side of the robot controller-side of the network~~, the functional connecting device being capable of enabling the general-purpose terminal to ~~remote-remotely~~ control the robot controller through the universal communication network; and

performing a predetermined operation on the robot controller ~~by using the~~ general-purpose terminal.

2. (Currently Amended) The remote control method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the step of enabling the terminal to remote-remotely control the robot controller is executed by~~ comprises sending a connect program from the functional connecting device to the general-purpose terminal in response to a request made ~~by using the~~ general-purpose terminal.

3. (Currently Amended) The remote control method according to claim 1, further comprising: ~~a step of converting information of a format sent from the~~ general-purpose terminal to the robot controller into information of another format that can be processed by the robot controller ~~by using the~~ functional connecting device.

4. (Currently Amended) The remote control method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the step of performing the predetermined operation is executed by~~ comprises

retrieving desired information from the robot controller through the functional connecting device ~~by using~~ the general-purpose terminal.

5. (Currently Amended) The remote control method according to claim 1, wherein operations that can be performed on the robot controller ~~by using~~ the general-purpose terminal ~~on the robot controller~~ are limited.

6. (Currently Amended) The remote control method according to claim 4, wherein information retrievable from the robot controller ~~by using~~ the general-purpose terminal is limited.

7. (Currently Amended) A remote control system for ~~remote-remotely~~ controlling a robot controller through a universal communication network ~~by using~~ a general-purpose terminal disposed ~~remote-remotely~~ from the robot controller, the system comprising:
a functional connecting device disposed on a ~~side of the robot controller-side~~ of the network, the functional connecting device being capable of enabling the general-purpose terminal to ~~remote-remotely~~ control the robot controller through the universal communication network, the general-purpose terminal performing a predetermined operation on the robot controller.

8. (Currently Amended) The remote control system according to claim 7, wherein the functional connecting device is provided with a connect program, the connect program being sent to the general-purpose terminal in response to a request made ~~by using~~ the general-purpose terminal.

9. (Currently Amended) The remote control system according to claim 7, wherein the functional connecting device is capable of converting information of a format sent from the general-purpose terminal to the robot controller into information of another format that can be processed by the robot controller.

10. (Currently Amended) The remote control system according to claim 7, wherein the general-purpose terminal retrieves desired information from the robot controller through the functional connecting device by performing the predetermined operation.

11. (Currently Amended) The remote control system according to claim 7, wherein operations performed ~~by the terminal~~ on the robot controller using the general-purpose terminal are limited.

12. (Currently Amended) The remote control system according to claim 10, wherein information retrievable from the robot controller ~~by using~~ the general-purpose terminal is limited.

13. (Original) The remote control system according to claim 7, wherein the functional connecting device is included in the robot controller.